



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Dear Parent / Carer

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Please find attached to this letter an application form for Free School Meals. Should your child be eligible, they will receive a daily allowance to spend in the canteen on healthy and, preferably hot, food. In addition, the School will then receive extra funding called 'Pupil Premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is Pupil Premium funding?

Pupil Premium funding from the Government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It is provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for Free School Meals
- Have been registered for Free School Meals at any point in the past six years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

At The Buckingham School, we get an extra £935 for every eligible pupil who is registered for Free School Meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used Pupil Premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions

Is my child eligible for Free School Meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at kbones@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



Does my child have to eat the Free School Meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for Free School Meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches, you should still register because the School will receive the Pupil Premium funding which can support your child in other ways.

How do I register?

You register for Free School Meals by completing the Application Form. This needs to be returned to School so that the information can be sent away to check if you qualify.

We have attached a copy of the Application Form for your convenience. There will also be paper copies available at our Main Reception, if you would prefer.

Even if you are not sure if you could be eligible, it is still worthwhile completing and returning the Application Form as you may be pleasantly surprised.

How does my child access Free School Meals?

When you become eligible for Free School Meals, we will contact you to let you know and to outline what the allowance can be used for. Our Canteen are informed and they add the daily monetary allowance to your child's dinner money account. This means that there is no need for your child to identify themselves as having Free School Meals as their transaction is processed through the till as normal.

More information

For more information about Pupil Premium, please go to our website, which contains details of how Pupil Premium has been spent in the past. If you have any questions or specific concerns regarding your potential application, please contact Kate Bones on 01280 818927 or by email to kbones@buckinghamschool.org.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Ryan
Key Groups Leader

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